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ASHLAND, Ashland Co., OHIO.

ASHLAND, O., OCT. 20, 1886.

The Local Influence.

The superficial observer is often inclined to the opinion that the power in persuading sinners to come to the church lies wholly in the ability of a good evangelist. The proper honor is due to the ability of an evangelist where a good work is accomplished or is to be accomplished, but all does not depend upon him where there is an established church.

The proper local influence is most important where such work is to be performed. Where a church is working under the direction of the Holy Spirit and its members are filled with the zeal that is according to knowledge, and earnestly engaged in leading an exemplary and loving Christian life, in faith and humility, and in prompt attendance at the house of worship, there is a power of persuasion that is not recognized and understood as it should be.

The man or woman who seeks church relation, and is searching for that which will satisfy the longings of the soul for the spiritual bread rationally expects to form a relation that will be pleasant, and enhance his social comforts as well as his spiritual interests; and this is a part that the Church of Christ claims to perform. The church that is planted upon the foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets, with Jesus Christ as the chief corner stone, will afford to its members such social comforts and associations with the religious, that the member thereof who has the spirit of Christ dwelling in him, will seek nothing more.

Our prosperous churches have been built up where the local influence has been social and Christian. Where such influences exist, there is something inviting to the soul that is sick of sin and the beggarly elements of the world; and when the revival is held they come to the fold and accept Christ as their dearest friend and make him their guest.

A brother or a sister who is full of the spirit of Christ often sheds abroad an influence in their locality which ultimately leads to the organization of a church and the salvation of numerous precious souls.

In as much as the Local Influence is therefore of paramount importance, how careful every member of the church should be to make his walk and conversation before God and the world exemplary in every particular and in all its bearings, that the good work may be enhanced thereby. How willing every "member of the body of Christ"

should be to sacrifice every thing that he has or does that may operate against the successful prosecution of the work of saving lost souls—can only be felt by the heavenly messenger who is able to look upon the agony of the eternally lost, and contrast their condition with the redeemed in full possession of the immortal robe and the enjoyments of the heavenly country. Could we gaze upon the enormity of selfish interests standing between precious souls and the enjoyments of an eternal life, the hardest heart would shrink from the sight stricken with horror. No man would do it were he not spiritually blinded by the blackness of sin.

Every member of the Christian body should carefully study himself and lead the life that will make the Local Influence the great power in bringing sinners to the knowledge of the truth.

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

This week's reports from the field is very encouraging.

We rejoice with the brethren at Louisville over the late accessions.

It is not too early to commence the canvass for new subscribers for the EVANGELIST for 1887. It will be sent free to new subscribers for 1887, during November and December.

Bro. E. L. Yoder intended to go to Falls City, Neb., last week. We wish him and the church there a happy time together.

Bro. Isaac Kilhefner will preach at the College next Lord's day.

That is a plain point made by brother S. C. Bashor, that if a hat disqualifies a man in prayer, it will consistently answer as a covering for women.

The brethren at Milford must expect to have a sort of Jubilee, in as much as steps are being taken to secure half-fare tickets for those who wish to attend the dedication. It is a good place to meet and we anticipate that it will be a notable dedication.

Last week made considerable new history for the Episcopal church. The conference held in Chicago was one of much importance as steps were taken to make some important changes in their ritual. Changes in the customs and desires of the people require changes in rules of faith and worship made by men; so there is never an end to revising and rearranging. The New Testament is a discipline that needs no changing. It is the proper ritual and rule of faith.

Bro. J. B. Wampler, of Blanco, Pa., desires us to say that there will be communion meeting in Glade Run meeting house on the evening of Oct. 23rd. All of like precious faith are invited to attend and participate.

Next Lord's day, Oct. 24th, we, A. L. Garber, expect to be at the Bear Creek Church, near Dayton, Ohio, in the morning, and with the brethren in Dayton in the evening.

Bro. J. H. and A. M. Ridenour expect to continue the meetings at Auburn, Ill., about a week yet.

The brethren at Pony Creek, Kansas, are expecting brother J. H. Worst to be there to conduct a series of meetings to commence about Dec. 1st.

Bro. S. H. Bashor closed his meetings at North Manchester, Ind., on the 12th, with six additions four of whom came out at the last service. From there he went to Sidney, Ind., where he will remain until the Dedication at Milford. As several came out at the last service, it looks to us as though it would have been advisable to continue the meetings longer. But we suppose that arrangements had been made for meetings at Sidney, and to Sidney the brother had to go to carry out arrangements.

At the late Episcopal Convention held at Indianapolis, Ind., the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that any clergyman seeking official position, and making a personal solicitation of votes, ought not to be elected, and that he is guilty of conduct unbecoming a clergyman of the Church of Christ." The Scriptures love the man who aims high and strives to excel

in doing good works; but when he resorts to scheming and solicitation for the purpose of securing votes to get an office, then he is doing what the Spirit does not lead him to do.

We notice that the Five Points House of Industry, in New York City is putting up a new infirmary to cost \$14,000. This enterprise shows what "the light" will do when it is made to penetrate dark places. Years ago Five Points was one of the most wretched places that was possible to find in the great city, and it was not safe for a stranger to be on the streets there after night without police to protect him. A few benevolent women raised a sum of money and built a plain substantial brick building and teachers were employed to gather the neglected and abandoned children who lived in the miserable tenements there and taught them to read and write and some useful trade. The result was that the den of thieves was transformed into one of the most peaceable quarters of the city, and now a new building is to be erected to cost the sum given above. The truth and morals are mighty when properly planted even among weeds.

This week we publish a list of College Pledges amounting to almost a hundred dollars that have been received at this office recently. It would be very encouraging to see the brethren everywhere take hold of this work and help the College out at once. There are many who can give, who have not yet thus favored our educational enterprise. It would not only be an easy task to raise the debt completely, if all would throw in their mites, but there would be a surplus to help worth young men who are anxious to prepare for the ministry, but are not able financially. Brethren, there is no danger of becoming poor by helping good works along. All we get of this world is our board and clothing, so let us be vigorous in the prosecution of all our church works. Let luxuries be sacrificed for the Gospel cause, and then the blessing of God shall be upon us.

Bro. D. M. Baker of Brooklyn, Iowa, came upon us on Tuesday of last week, while the EVANGELIST was being printed. He, wife and child were on an extended visit, and came to this place from Medina county, Ohio. At Bro. Henry Homan's suggestion he stopped to see Ashland, the EVANGELIST Office and the College. He is enthusiastic in the Brethren cause, and his visit to us is a pleasant paragraph in the history of life. Bro. Baker and his intelligent wife are true "Progressives," and their company is very enjoyable. They visited the College and went through the building from cellar to belfry, and hereafter will know something about Ashland College which is receiving so much attention. They also visited the Boarding Hall, and partook of a meal of Bro. Shively's \$1.50 board for the students of Ashland College. They were guests of Bro. H. K. Myers' family during their day's stop and on Wednesday morning continued their journey homeward with our well wishes.

Bro. Baker made us all glad by leaving a pledge of \$25.00 for the College.

We feel as do the Pleasant Hill brethren about allowing brother Mason to leave the pastoral work. He is too useful in that sphere to abandon it; and then it is the highest place that even God is able to place man in. There is no work so great.

In Bro. Brown's correspondence we learn that we have one brother minister who will take the streets and preach. While there seems to be considerable prejudice against this style of preaching, after all it is the only way in which many who need the gospel salvation can be reached, and there should be more of it than there is.

We suppose we owe brother A. D. Gnagey an apology. We could not find the conclusion to his article, entitled "Meyersdale, Pa.;" but we can not tell whether we lost it, or whether it was forgotten in closing the letter.

The next term of the College opens Nov. 9th. Brethren, you who are farmers, send your sons and your daughters here, please, and have them taught a knowledge of book-keeping and business.

Bro. E. L. Hilderbrand spent last Lord's Day at the Bethel Church Perry county, Ohio.

Sister's Fund.

Ardeletta Simanton..... \$1.00
Eliza Herschler..... 1.00

Quinter Church.

The above is the name given to a church by the German Baptists, in a locality in the state of Kansas. This is the first instance we have noticed that a local church organization has been named after one of its distinguished men, outside of the Roman Catholic church which abounds in illustrations of the kind. But even they have refrained, so far as we know, from naming their churches after their leaders until after they had died and had been canonized as saints. We feel satisfied that if it is at all proper for the G. B. church to name any of its local churches after one of its leaders, James Quinter is deserving of the first honor. Neither would we feel that the EVANGELIST should venture upon giving friendly advice to the G. B. church on this subject, for the reason that it is not asked for, and would likely not be heeded. Even if they would go the full measure of the Romish example, and add the word Saint, and establish a St. Eby, a St. Wiese, and St. Brumbaugh, and St. Eshleman congregations, etc., we would not seriously object; but we want to enter our protest, in good time, against the Brethren church doing anything of this kind. It is not the example laid down in the Gospel, and therefore we, as a Gospel church, should not adopt it. We have no example of a Paul church, an Apollas church or a Cephas church; therefore we don't want any Bashor, Beer, Brown, or Mason churches. Let the local organization be distinguished as they were of old; as the church at Ephesus, &c., naming them after the places where they exist rather than after any man.

Scenes by the Way.

I have not been very punctual in my correspondence this summer; but apologies would be out of place, for when I was in Iowa, Bro's Bashor, Jake Lichty, Jo. Saylor, and others, would induce me to go hunting or fishing when I did not prevail on them, so that some "valuable time" was wasted.

After all, when I look over the past friendships have been formed that time cannot efface.

The joyful meeting with brother Cober and the six or seven short weeks in the home of Bro. S. Deffenbaugh's, also the pleasant associations with the members of the Bethel church, can never be erased from our memory.

Then the exulting meeting with my parents and brothers and sisters at home, I feel can only be a foretaste of the joy we will experience in meeting Christ in heaven.

I can not help but allude to Bro. Jake Lichty, and W. Miller with me in a squirrel hunt. Do not allow him to make you believe that I was lost. He reminded me of the children of Israel complaining against Moses, because he did not do just as they wished him to. He continually complained that we were in the wrong direction, and not in luck, when finally he started on his own responsibility. Well you know what become of the Israelites when they disobeyed, so with Bro. Jake; he wandered in the wilderness for a long time, before he got back to camp. Now Bro. Jake don't tell any body that I gave you away.

When the time came to leave it seemed almost incredible that I had spent almost two months in my western home. I bade farewell, feeling that in some way God would allow us to meet again. I know that there are souls in Iowa that breathe forth a prayer in my behalf daily. These prayers strengthen me in life's conflicts.

Spent several days in Chicago very profitably. Of all the sights the iron works had most interest for me.

On arriving in Ashland I found the school in good working order. Am pleased with the outlook for the coming year. Remember that there is always room for one more.

I had been here but a few days when a letter came from Bro. A. A. Cober, who is holding a series of meetings at Louisville, O., stating that he would like to have his appointments filled in Knox Co. Am sure, no one would refuse to go to such an interesting place.

Took the train Saturday noon, —that is, I overtook it. Am thinking these railroad men will soon get ashamed of themselves and quit trying to run away from me—arrived in Ankneytown in the evening. While on my way up street I met Bro. Swank and another man whose name I forgot. The immediate result of our meeting was an argument on the relations the clergy sustain to Prohibition. I will not enter into details of the discussion, simply say that I enjoyed the hospitality of Bro. Swank that night.

The Sabbath was one of those beautiful days in which all nature seems to proclaim the existence of an intellectual and Supreme Being.

The Ankneytown church is almost completed and the people can well be proud of it. The walls are beautifully frescoed, and they are intending to have carpet also. They are talking of having an organ, but don't tell any body I told you.

After the forenoon's season of worship, Frank Swank very kindly took me to friend Gilmore's where we were royally entertained.

In the evening we went to North Liberty, where we found a large audience awaiting us, to which I endeavored to break the bread of life. From the attention and the interest manifested, I can not help but feel that God's spirit was at work in the audience. On looking over the congregation when I saw sister Mallott, could not help but think of Bro. M., who the same day stood and plead with the people at Enon. Though many miles apart our prayers and desires went to the same God. After services, bid the people farewell and Bro. Hess took me to his home in Independence. If any of the brethren should happen to go through that city, go to their house and remain one night just for satisfaction sake. For further particulars write to Bro. Holsinger, he is a good judge of hospitality.

Left next morning for Ashland. At Mansfield, Bro. A. L. Garber, "ye editor" entered the train. He had been down filling an appointment. After a pleasant ride we arrived in A., ready for work again.

In conclusion allow me to say that I am very grateful to the brethren and sisters for their kindness, and hope you will all pray for me that I may be able to be of service to the cause of Christ.

E. L. HILDERBRAND.